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Play ball!
Minden Mixed Baseball Leagues had their end of year tournament this past weekend in Minden. For more photos of the event, see inside this edition.
/ADAM FRISK staff

Minden honours artist with Group of Seven ties

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Before being known as a painter, Maurice Haycock was a geologist and father sent on a surveying assignment to the arctic. Travelling by boat, dogsled, and foot, Haycock surveyed the Cumberland Sound area of Baffin Island. It was by fate that while returning home in 1927 Maurice Haycock met A. Y. Jackson, founding member of the Group of Seven. Befriending Jackson and kindling an interest in painting, the two became frequent painting partners. Jackson remained a close friend of the family for the rest of his life.

Maurice Haycock visited northern Canada frequently until he passed away in 1988. One of Kathy Haycock's favourite memories of her and her dad was when he took her to Baffin Island in 1984.

Haycock remembers that when she was a kid, her father would show off all of his paintings that he had completed in the arctic.

"To this day I can remember the smell of the fresh paint and solvents," said Haycock.

For all of Haycock's life, she was a lifelong weaver of tapestries. It was not until

see HAYCOCK page 13

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Democracy Project kicks off in community

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

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How do you currently participate in your community?
1 Serve on a board of directors
0 Elected official
0 Sit on a committee of council
0 Don't vou
hand whe
0 Not curre

Jessica Slade addresses a full house at the Haliburton Legion last week during the first of four workshops put on by the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project. The next session is set for Oct. 7 in Wilberforce. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

It's official - the wheels are in motion for the next municipal election, slated for one year from now.

On Sept. 16, the Haliburton Legion saw nearly 100 interested locals come out to hear the first presentation by the Healthy Democracy Project. The four-part series is mapped out over the coming months, with the introductory session hosted by Jessica Slade.

Slade is the founder of Founder of Civics with Slade, a nonpartisan civic education initiative focused on making politics more accessible for youth, women, and rural communities. "Tonight is about putting us all on the same page, and creating a shared conversation," opened Slade to a packed room. "Because when we all understand how government and community work together, it makes us stronger - and we're so happy that you are here."

The Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project was formed by a group of experienced locals interested in educating individuals about the political climate; both at home and afar. "This project isn't just about encouraging people to run for council," said Slade. "It's about strengthening civic participation in all its forms. We want to support local leadership, celebrate successful community collaborations, and give residents the tools they need to shape the future of our county, building on the great work that has already been happening."

The first session was about laying the groundwork for moving ahead; namely, a focus on breaking down local governmental structures, and exploring the nitty-gritty of how our communities tick. "We know that government can sometimes feel like a big, complicated web of responsibilities spread across municipal, provincial, and federal levels. And yes, there's often a bit of overlap and some gray areas in terms of who does what," said Slade. "We're going to zero in on the municipal level. With the 2026 municipal election on the horizon, it's important for all of us to have a clear picture of what our local government is actually responsible for and how it impacts our daily lives."

Scattered throughout the evening were some "success stories" that local municipalities have experienced when they find "the perfect recipe" of working together; "citizens with ideas, councils with authority, staff with expertise, and volunteers with time and energy. That's the recipe," said Slade. "It's not one or the other. It's the combination of community and council collaborating together to make big things happen."

These examples were the Haliburton School of Art and Design (HSAD), the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails, the Central Food Network, and the Minden Riverwalk; all individual projects that required group efforts.

In reference to HSAD, community economic development consultant Heather Reid - the MC for the evening - noted that this was a prime example of community collaboration. "This story is an amazing example of municipal government, not for profits, and individuals can work together to make things happen and how there is a role for everyone," she said. "Some of us want to flip burgers at a fundraiser, some can donate labour and expertise, and some want to sit at the board table and help make decisions. Regardless of how everyone pitches in, it takes a community to make big dreams come true."

Slade noted that a major reason she sees value in starting these conversations, is due to the substantial decrease in voter turnout, and a notable increase in acclamations. In the 2022 municipal election, only 33 per cent of eligible voters cast their ballots, with 32 full councils across Ontario acclaimed and 553 positions uncontested. "Acclamation isn't necessarily bad in itself," noted Slade, "but it does mean fewer choices and less engagement."

Throughout the presentation, participants were encouraged to use Mentimeter; a digital polling program that allows attendees to use their voices in real time to respond to timely questions. Over 60 participated in the exercise, which allowed Democracy Project coordinators to understand the audience, and their priorities.

From the results, it was noted that the majority of attendees served in some volunteer capacity within their community. It was also noted that 41 per cent of participants have not considered running for local office, with the number one reason being a lack of mentorship or encouragement from others.

Stronger hourly compensation was third on the list of reasons for locals not running for office, following running a campaign/financial support.

But Slade noted that running for council was not the only way to get involved in your community. "Council doesn't exist in a silo, and neither does community. The real magic happens when the two work together," she said. "Our steering committee spent some time mapping out the different roles people can play in strengthening our democracy. And what we realized is this: there isn't just one way to get involved. Each role matters."

> ***"It's not one or the other. It's the combination of community and council collaborating together to make big things happen."***
>
> —Jessica Slade, Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project

Slade included that joining committees of council, non-profit boards, school council, advisory groups, and volunteering are all opportunities to share your voice and values with the community.

"Each of these roles carries a different level of responsibility," she said, "but all of them contribute to shaping the community we live in."

The next session for the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project is set for Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce. This session will be called *Finding Your Why; the Big Picture* and will feature former Members of Parliament Barry Devolin and Maryam Monsef.

"Our goal is to walk with you through the full arc of civic engagement - from curiosity to confidence," closed Slade. "Whether you're thinking of running, hoping to support someone, here as a fly on the wall to see what the community thinks, or simply wanting to understand how it all works - this space is for you."

Habitat, P4P partner to build 35 new affordable homes in Haliburton

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

Habitat for Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region and Places for People are joining forces to build 35 new affordable homes in Haliburton.

The charities announced last week plans to build a 35-unit affordable condo development on Peninsula Road, bringing more affordable housing to the community.

"These will be one to two-bedroom modern homes, thoroughly designed with accessibility and universal layouts that work for individuals, couples, singles, families and seniors," Habitat PKR board chair Hope Lee announced on Sept. 18 at the Haliburton Legion. "They will be bright, energy efficient and built to last because at Habitat for Humanity, affordable never means cutting corners."

Lee explained that Habitat PKR plans to make 20 of the units available through the charity's affordable homeownership program.

"This unique model allows families and individuals to purchase a home with no down payment and a gear-to-income mortgage," Lee said. "It provides the strength and stability of homeownership, while helping people build equity for their future, something that feels very out of reach for a lot of people."

The other 15 units in the proposed development will be purchased by Places for People to allow for affordable rentals along with one commercial unit for the charity to work from.

"Together this means 35 households here in Haliburton will gain access to safe and affordable places to live," Lee said. "This is not just housing. It's an investment in the community of Haliburton, and it's a long term economic growth."

Both charities bring two decades of experience with building and providing affordable housing and supporting families. Since 2002, Habitat PKR has supported nearly 100 local families into affordable home ownership while Places for People has provided affordable rental housing to more than 100 people since 2007.

"Habitat for Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region has long been the trusted leader in building affordable homes for homeownership, making them the perfect partner for Places for People as we expand the affordable rental sector," Places for People's president Susan Tromanhauser said in a press release following the announcement. "We are thrilled to collaborate with this exceptional team to continue making a lasting impact in Haliburton County."

While the development is still in its initial planning stages, the goal is to break ground in 2027, using locally sourced building materials and employing local workers.

"We have already opened up a couple of accounts for building materials and we've already met with the home builders association and their members to try and get people to express their interest in being involved," Habitat PKR CEO Susan Zambonin said. "We can build, we have the experience of building this in Peterborough but we don't want to bring Peterborough people to Haliburton to build.

"We want Haliburton people to build this," she said.

While both charities said the plans are still in early development, the current focus for the organizations is on raising funds for the project and gathering community support.

Food for the soul
SIRCH hosted their annual Empty Bowls fundraiser at the Haliburton Legion this past Saturday. With over 300 in attendance over the course of two seatings, the event was a success, showcasing local potters, restaurants, and musicians along the way, all while raising money and awareness for food insecurity in Haliburton County. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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Mental health clinic opens

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Access to mental health services is something that many struggle with, particularly in a rural community.

Luckily, the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) have taken the steps to officially open a new mental health walk-in clinic in the heart of Minden.

"We're excited to bring this service to Minden," said Calli Lorente, Manager of Integrated Crisis Services of the local CMHA branch in a press release. "This clinic offers a low-barrier entry point for people seeking support and reflects our commitment to meeting the mental health needs of the community."

Mental health and mental illness are often terms used interchangeably, but are substantially different, says the CMHA. "Everyone has mental health and will experience challenges regarding their mental well-being, but not everyone will experience a mental illness," they said. "The presence or absence of a mental illness is not a predictor of mental health; someone without a mental illness could have poor mental health, just as a person with a mental illness could have excellent mental health."

According to the CMHA, one in five individuals will navigate a mental health crisis each year, and by the age of 40, about 50 per cent of the population will have or have had a mental illness. With over 4000 Canadians dying by suicide each year, the need for mental health support is on the forefront. "The symptoms of mental illnesses can be treated and very often managed effectively," said the CMHA website. "With the right supports, people with mental illnesses can thrive."

On Sept. 11, the CMHA announced their walk-in clinic in Minden, noting that as of Thursday, Sept. 18, the clinic will be open one day a week, opening the doors to those in need. "The model offers face-to-face support in real time which can make all the difference when taking that first step toward mental wellness," said the CMHA website, noting that the clinic opening is coming on the heels of success at Peterborough and Lindsay clinics, who have supported over 200 individuals since February, 2025.

The clinic is designed for individuals not currently tied to mental health professionals, but looking for options to explore their next steps; offering immediate access to someone who will listen.

While the CMHA is eager to bring those in need through the new Minden clinic's doors, they are adamant that it is not the site for those in an immediate state of crisis. "CMHA encourages anyone experiencing mental health crisis to reach out for immediate support by calling or texting the 9-8-8 National Suicide Crisis Helpline," they said.

The clinic will be open on Thursdays from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., and will be located at 6 McPherson Street in Minden. "This new clinic in Minden is another meaningful step," said the CMHA, "ensuring that residents of Haliburton County have accessible, timely, and compassionate mental health care when they need it most."

Hiking Haliburton

The county welcomed hundreds of hikers this past weekend for the annual Hike Haliburton Festival. Pictured, Irv Handler and Joan Joseph led 14 hikers on a seven kilometres hike around the Frost Centre. /submitted

For more than 160 years, Indigenous children were forced into Indian Residential Schools.
September 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to learn about the 150,000 childhoods lost to Canada's Indian Residential School system.
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HHHS board of directors announces new chief of staff

On behalf of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) board of directors, it is with mixed emotions that we announce a significant leadership transition as Dr. Keith Hay, chief of staff, steps down effective Sept. 30, 2025, and Dr. Paul Faulkner assumes the role, marking an exciting new chapter for the organization.

Dr. Hay has served as chief of staff for the past two years, bringing exceptional leadership and a deep commitment to advancing healthcare at HHHS. During his tenure, Dr. Hay was instrumental in establishing a robust credentialing system for physicians, leveraging his extensive knowledge of standards set by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO). His efforts have strengthened the organization's foundation of quality care. Dr. Hay also spearheaded recruitment efforts and forged local partnerships to grow HHHS, ensuring a sustainable future for the organization. A passionate advocate for environmental sustainability, he championed initiatives to make HHHS more planet-friendly.

Dr. Hay will continue to serve as a leader in primary care, representing Haliburton interests at the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton OHT Primary Care Leadership Council.

"It has been an honour to serve as chief of staff," said Dr. Hay. "I am proud of the progress we've made together, from enhancing physician standards to fostering community partnerships. I look forward to helping strengthen primary care at HHHS and in the county."

Dr. Paul Faulkner, a highly respected physician currently practicing in HHHS's emergency department, will step into the role of chief of staff on Oct. 1, 2025, under a three-year contract. A local resident, Dr. Faulkner brings a wealth of experience, having previously served as chief of staff at a large city center hospital. His leadership is expected to drive HHHS's strategic initiatives, particularly the organization's master planning efforts, which aim to enhance facilities and services to meet the community's growing needs. Dr. Faulkner is enthusiastic about the opportunity to lead HHHS into its next phase of growth and innovation.

"I am thrilled to take on the role of chief of staff at HHHS," said Dr. Faulkner. "The master planning efforts underway present an exciting opportunity to shape the future of healthcare in our community. I look forward to working with our talented team to deliver exceptional care and strengthen our ties to the region."

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Hay for his dedicated leadership and transformative contributions to HHHS. His vision and commitment have positioned us for continued success. We are equally excited to welcome Dr. Faulkner, whose experience and passion for our community will guide HHHS into a bright future. HHHS remains committed to delivering high-quality, patient-centred care, and look forward to continued progress under Dr. Faulkner's leadership.

Submitted by Irene Odell, HHHS Board Chair

For the love of the game

A Champs from the baseball tournament in Minden and recipients of the Arnold Cowen Memorial Trophy. See more photos on page 24. / photos submitted by Cheryl Smith

Minden Mixed Baseball League was honoured to present the very first Newfer Burk Legacy Award, given to a player who truly embodies love for the game, competitive spirit, and positivity on and off the field. With Newfer's sisters and nephew present, the league proudly recognized Kayla Denty Davidson as this year's recipient.

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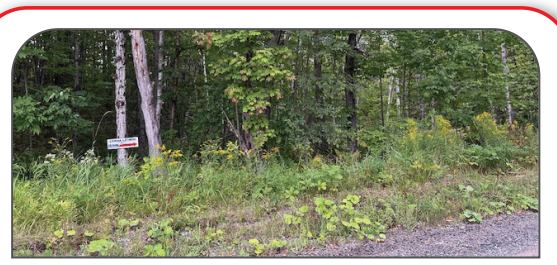

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JENNIFER MCEATHRON, General Manager and Sales
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

EMILY STONEHOUSE, Managing Editor
emily@haliburtonpress.com

THOMAS SMITH, Journalist
thomas@haliburtonpress.com

ADAM FRISK, Journalist
adam@haliburtonpress.com

KAREN LONDON, Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com

STACEY POTALIVO, Production

LAURA SMITH, Sales
laura@haliburtonpress.com

PAUL BANELOPOULOS, Sales
paul@haliburtonpress.com

CIRCULATION
subscriptions@haliburtonpress.com

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Recipe

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

DURING HER presentation for the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project, civic facilitator Jessica Slade made reference to a recipe for success: citizens with ideas, councils with authority, staff with expertise, and volunteers with time and energy.

A four part collaboration that sets a community up for success.

She nailed it. That abstract thought around gaps and struggles and momentum and movement.

It all comes down to this recipe.

And while the concept is simplified and structurally articulated in plain black and white, this recipe may be significantly easier said than done.

I've watched many, many ideas take shape over the years, only to flounder and fail because all the pieces of the recipe are not accounted for. Sometimes they have staff with expertise, but not council support. Other times there are big ideas, but no capacity for volunteers.

On a rare occasion, there is unwavering council support, but the idea fizzles out when the citizens lose momentum.

The same way you need sugar for cookies to be sweet, eggs to bind them together, flour to allow them to rise - you need each and every part of civic engagement to be running on all cylinders in order to move forward with a dream.

The messaging at the heart of the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project is to get people involved, in some capacity, in their community. Whether that be boards, committees, not-for-profits, school councils, or volunteerism, there are opportunities and avenues to use your voice, to find your platform.

And you have to walk the talk. In an age of swirling social media messages, this is the time to move from those forums and apply your cares, your considerations, your causes, directly to the betterment of your community.

No, Facebook does not count as a platform with which tangible change can be implemented. You have to show up, you have to be real, you have to dedicate time and effort and money and energy towards your beliefs.

Then, and only then, will you see change.

It all comes down to the recipe: citizens with ideas, councils with authority, staff with expertise, and volunteers with time and energy.

And honestly, I do believe we are set up as a community to succeed. There are countless groups of doers and dreamers, movers and shakers. There are dedicated staff who have committed their careers to bettering our towns. While there is a population of volunteers aging out of the scene, many seem to be taking the eager hands of generations below them, and showing them the ropes.

And last but not least, we have a council with authority; with the ability to implement meaningful regulations, and the opportunity to choose to move forwards instead of back.

I think it's time to get this recipe in place. We're hungry for change.

Accountability or torture?

Pair, Ponder

Poke, Peel

Fay Martin

SINCE PIERRE Poilievre trampolined from the rural fields of Alberta back into the House of Commons, the chorus of how he is going to keep the government's feet to the fire has amped from audible to omnipresent. It seems currently inarguable wisdom that the job of the Official Opposition is to keep the government 'accountable'. Which seems to be defined as an endless game of Gotcha.

If you never have an idea, you can never be held accountable for not accomplishing it. If you have a Big Idea, something ambitious that might take longer than, say, 100 days to accomplish, you would be foolish to articulate it because it will be picked to the bones on a daily basis. Unless, of course, it's only your job to have the idea, not to bring it to fruition. Because then you can not only never be held accountable for not accomplishing the idea, but you can also squawk like a stuck pig that it has been purloined, stolen from you before you had the opportunity to do what you would have done if only if only if only.

Holding someone's feet to the fire was a trial by ordeal in Medieval times, practiced - probably not exclusively - by the Inquisition. It was intended to elicit either information or a confession. Or maybe it was an opportunity for God to get a word in on everyday life. The process involved the problematic person walking barefoot on hot coals, and if they somehow survived unscathed, God could be read into the event in some way. The tarnished Joseph Boyden, in *The Orenda,* describes the Haudenosaunee torturing a captured warrior in this fashion (letting him twist from a rope suspended over a fire, if I remember correctly), which Boyden took as evidence of paganism and the need for his Catholic (the Inquisition guys, right?) mission.

I think the omnipresence and longevity of this idea is that its sheer brutality piques the evil within us. We've all had the experience of being burned and we can imagine how much worse the pain could have been – how sharp, how long, how inescapable. So if you really, really wanted to be mean to someone, what you might imagine is slowly and painfully burning them: as in - holding their feet to the fire. It bespeaks ultra sincere and sustained intent, an admirable passion for the job at hand, unbridled devotion to doing the necessary, regardless of what it might do to your soul now or in the hereafter.

It's hard to imagine why this approach is appropriate to the everyday business of governance. Surely if governing is the collective intent to act in the interest of the general good, torturing is of little use. I can't fathom what information is so necessary and so unavailable that such extreme measures are warranted.

Or eliciting a confession: to what? You didn't achieve your goal? You didn't fulfill your promise? The failure is evident so a confession is post-facto, stale news, irrelevant. And what if the promise is not an outcome, but a process? Let us recall that Rome was not built in a day.

Or forcing a person do what they said they'd do? First, we are singularly limited in our ability to make others do what we want them to do (politics is not an exception). Secondly, maiming someone with torture is unlikely to make them either more able or more motivated to do what you want them to do.

I rather think the business of politics would be better furthered by practicing another old adage, putting your shoulder to the wheel. Not only does this phrase imply the sustained hard work that is nearly always necessary to make significant change, but also it suggests that adding shoulders – collective action toward a shared goal – would be helpful. It's what happens spontaneously when a vehicle is stuck – everybody knows what to do without even being told.

So why doesn't that commonsense, everyday wisdom penetrate to the hallowed halls of government? I think it used to, in the days when politicians were expected to be statesmen, not combatants, when every elected person was accountable to his electorate for representing their interests, not foot-soldiers in a partisan war.

Maybe collaboration still does happen, hidden from the view of the citizenry. Something that looked like collaborative effort toward a common goal was evident in the early days of Canada being appalled at the unapologetic malintent of our southern neighbour. Vestiges of good will and shared intent are still evident.

However, I may not be the only one worried whether it will unravel if the siren call to torture once more rings through the House of Parliament and is repeated in the media until we forget that it reflects an evil that serves no good.

points of view

Shocking news

DON'T TURN on the Internet today! It's dangerous! I know this because I turned it on this morning and saw a headline that read, "Beyonce electrifies the Internet in a leotard."

Luckily, before I took a severe electrical jolt, I was able to turn off my browser. And I haven't turned it on since.

Here's what's really scary.

Despite the importance of this story, there seems to be no mainstream media coverage. I watched all the morning news shows. They did not mention it once.

That's a shame because being shocked is not something to be taken lightly. As a person who has placed his tongue across both terminals of a 9-volt battery many times, I can attest to this.

The bigger question is why would Beyonce do such a thing?

What 44-year-old wears leotards on the Internet? Doesn't she know that this is going to get her all sorts of attention? And no one likes attention-seeking behaviour.

Steve Galea

Loon Tales

If my own experience wearing leotards online is any indication, this is going to be bad for business too.

So why take the risk?

I suppose the leotards were a distraction from the main event, which is obviously a brazen attempt to electrocute the world. The leotards were just a way of taking our eyes off the prize.

At times like this, it pays not to get all crazy and formulate ridiculous conspiracy theories. That's why I'm just going to break this down logically and follow the money.

As always, the big question is who stands to gain from all this?

Well, imagine if you were viewing that page on your mobile phone. The second you got shocked, what would happen?

That's right, you'd drop your phone like a hot potato!

And, if you are unlucky, your phone would fall in water, or hit a hard surface the wrong way and break. Then you would have to buy a new one.

If you are really unlucky, this would happen to all your kids. Then they would have another new reason to campaign for the latest iPhone.

And who benefits from that? Big cell phone, that's who!

Also, Big Leotard, in a lesser way. I mean, I suspect Beyonce looks goods in leotards. And that could also inspire some of us to perhaps try it again. Maybe use less harsh lighting?

Even more interesting, the clues were right there in front of us.

Queen B, as they call Beyonce, has a song called *Telephone* featuring Lady Gaga. Coincidence? I think not. Gaga is also known to wear leotards (sometimes made out of cabbage and deli meat) to shock the Internet.

Wheels within wheels people. They're all in on it.

I don't know about you, but I've had it up to here (I'm now pointing to my forehead) with being manipulated by the Internet and influencers.

I see what they're doing very clearly. Beyonce and Lady Gaga have clearly sold out to Big Cell Phone and Big Leotard and they're making a killing as we speak.

Luckily, I was paying enough attention for all of us.

So, here's how we fight back. We wear rubber gloves while going on-line for the time being, until Queen B decides she's not going to electrify us anymore.

Full disclosure: I did invest in a rubber glove company about an hour ago.

(Now, tapping the side of my head with my index finger.)

pic *of the* past

This week's photo is from the *Echo* archives. The original caption reads: "Our thanks go out this week to Roy Windover of Minden for submitting this most interesting photo of the Deep Bay Inn way back in 1930. The inn, which was located nine miles south of Minden on Big Gull Lake, was built and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Windover, also of Minden. When it was operating, a total of 70 people filled it to capacity. It was one of the first lodges in Haliburton County. The Deep Bay Inn was destroyed by fire in the early 1940s."

The sun is a rose

"Thank god for the kind of happiness you can't explain" is from the song, '*Till It's Gone*, sung by the Birds of Chicago. The song is "blessing the beautiful morning until it's gone." You can find it on YouTube and it is worth searching for. It fills the heart. I've been humming it for the past two weeks while on vacation.

A few days were spent at my sister and brother-in-law's cottage which is on the border of Algonquin Park. The highlight for me was their sauna. Beautifully built, easy to heat with the wood stove and close to the lake is what inspired me to take advantage of it. I had forgotten how much I love sitting in the heat and then running to the cool fall lake and jumping in. Again and again.

One evening the moon was a big ball of peach and orange and pink and it looked like it was floating on the lake. It took my breath away. It's the kind of happiness you can't explain.

On the second week of my holiday I went on a canoe trip with three girlfriends. The lakes were so calm and the reflections of the trees and the rocks were breathtaking. Every evening we sat out under the clear sky and watched the stars and the satellites and drank wine. We had small campfires which was such a gift after this dry summer and fire ban. We skinny dipped three or four times a day. We had good food and we laughed a lot.

We did six portages in total, and that was enough to take us into some smaller and quiet lakes. It's the kind of happiness you can't explain as I soaked in the beauty, the quiet, the stillness and the warmth of the sun and the friends. The song goes on to say "the sun is a rose and the lake is a bowl of wine." What beautiful images to hold.

We are in relationship with the sun and the lake. They give their essence and energy freely to us. No strings attached. Such gifts to receive. We are so privileged to live in this part of the world and to have these opportunities for rest, renewal and adventure. I found myself thinking about the responsibility that each of us has to take care of our land, our water, our forests and all of life.

Of course we all want to enjoy these areas, and at the same time we each need to make decisions that support the well being of all of the life that lives here. There is no one way or one thing to do. There are many ways. What matters is that we each do what we can. We remember that we are connected to these waters and stars and trees and that we all matter. And then we do what we can. We want our great grandchildren to be able to experience this kind of happiness that you can't explain.

Lynda Shadbolt

Tales from the great

Green meadow

County receives $25,000 to enhance Hike Haliburton

The County of Haliburton is pleased to announce it has received $25,000 from the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario). The funding will be used to strengthen and expand the Hike Haliburton Festival, one of Canada's largest annual hiking festivals.

The Hike Haliburton Festival, organized by the County of Haliburton, draws visitors from across Ontario and beyond to experience the region's scenic trails, vibrant fall colours, and unique outdoor adventures. Each February and September, the festival features dozens of guided hikes, nature-based activities, and cultural experiences, showcasing the natural beauty and warm hospitality of the Haliburton Highlands.

"This funding will allow us to enhance the festival experience, support our local tourism sector, and attract even more visitors to discover the trails and communities of the Haliburton Highlands," said Haliburton County Warden Dave Burton. "In particular, we will be able to improve the registration process to make it easier for participants to plan and book their hikes, while continuing to grow and enrich the overall festival experience."

"Tourism is a cornerstone of vibrant rural economies across southern Ontario. By supporting the Hike Haliburton Festival, the Government of Canada is helping to strengthen local businesses, and showcase the unique natural beauty of communities like the Haliburton Highlands," said the Honourable Evan Solomon, Minister of Digital Innovation and Artificial Intelligence and Minister responsible for FedDev Ontario.

By investing in the Hike Haliburton Festival, the County of Haliburton will not only elevate the visitor experience but also create new opportunities for local businesses, guides, and cultural partners.

This year's fall Hike Haliburton Festival ran from September 18 to 21, and offered a wide range of free, guided hikes and experiences for all ages and skill levels.

For more information about the Hike Haliburton Festival, visit www.hikehaliburton.com.

Submitted

We will remember

The Royal Canadian Legion Colour Party marches towards St. Anthony's Cemetery during Veterans Decoration Day in Haliburton on Sept. 15. /ADAM FRISK staff

A Royal Canadian Legion member stands while piper Jim Thompson plays at the Haliburton cemetery last week.

HHHS co–hosts *Your Voice Your Choice* event

In partnership with Community Care of City of Kawarth Lakes, Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is proud to announce the *Your Voice Your Choice* event on October 8, 2025, at the Haliburton Legion.

Join us to learn more about Advance Care Planning and hear from experts on ways to make this transition easier for you or a loved one. We look forward to seeing you there!

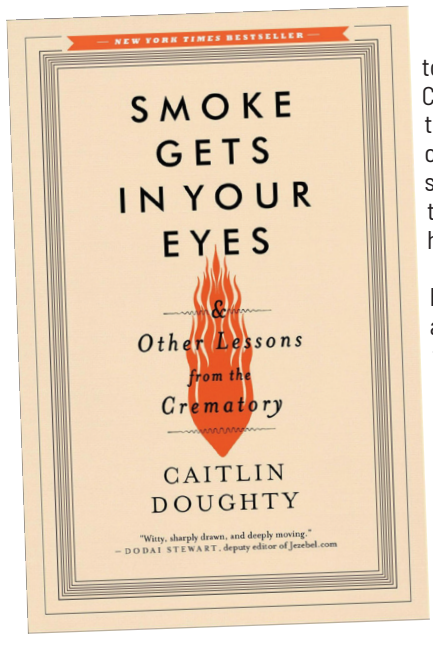
Submitted by Lauren Ernst
Chief Communications Officer, HHHS

Minden Memories

A property on Sintonea Lane. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES
& Other Lessons from the Crematory
CAITLIN DOUGHTY
"Witty, sharply drawn, and deeply moving."
– DODAI STEWART, deputy editor of Jezebel.com

Armed with a degree in medieval history and a fascination with the macabre, Caitlin Doughty took a job at a crematory and turned morbid curiosity into a career. She cared for bodies of every shape, color, and affliction, exploring the world of the dead with courage and humor.

In *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*, Doughty blends gallows humor, vivid storytelling, and historical insight to reveal how our fear of death shapes society. By turns dark, hilarious, and uplifting, her memoir invites readers to reconsider how we treat the dead—and live our own lives.

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes by Caitlin Doughty is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. To place a hold or learn more, visit haliburtonlibrary.ca.

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Fall fun

Hadley Ryckman, 8, shuffles a stone on an inflatable curling rink during Colourfest. Haliburton's annual Colourest took over Head Lake Park on Saturday in celebration of the arrival of autumn. From inflatable games, face painting and a petting zoo to popcorn and the beloved pumpkin roll, community members enjoyed a beautiful afternoon of family fun. /ADAM FRISK staff

Hazeleigh Stantis pets an animal as her sister and father look on during Colourfest.

Hayden Ide plays some basketball during Colourfest on Saturday.

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Kids react as they participate in the beloved pumpkin roll.

Community members participate in the pumpkin roll.

Calen, 5, and Chloe, 3, pose with their pumpkins ahead of the pumpkin roll.

Teagan, Hayden, Bryce, Liam and Lincoln pose with their pumpkins

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PICKERING PANTHERS

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S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

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WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA

AH council questions septic inspector position

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Earlier this year, Algonquin Highlands council directed staff to find cost comparisons and program models to establish the township's septic re-inspection program.

As their neighbour, AH sought information from the Township of Muskoka Lakes and other service providers to determine the best course of action for the septic re-inspection program.

"This initiative reflects the township's ongoing commitment to protecting our lakes and waterways," said Jeff Lewis, deputy chief building official for AH. "Vital shared assets that contribute to environmental health, public well being and long term sustainability."

Four options were presented in the report. Option one involved an in-house delivery where the inspections are done by AH staff in the first phases and for council to consider hiring a full-time inspector as volumes increase.

The second, and most recommended option is hiring an in-house dedicated inspector. The cost of staff and implementation of the inspection program would be reflected in the tax levy.

Option three included hiring a full-time or contract inspector, but charge on a per-inspection basis.

Option four, and the least recommended option is hiring a seasonal inspector on a contract basis.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux asked what the in-house inspector would be doing during the winter when the snow is at its deepest.

"Typically, during that part of the year we would be doing a lot of administrative work," said Lewis. "Remedial action, preparing for the upcoming inspection year."

"Our initial calculations show that a dedicated inspector on the levy, as an ongoing service to the constituents, would end up being cheaper than pay-per-use," said Greg Moore, chief building official for AH.

Moore said that it would also depend on the number of different variables.

Councillor Sabrina Richards asked if one person would be able to carry out the expectations of the program, considering that the program was contracted out in the past and executed by more than one person.

Moore said that one person would be dedicated to the inspections and doing a majority of them.

"I do believe it is going to be enough work for one person all year round," said Moore.

Moore went on to say that doing the mailouts, pulling info for sewage systems, and doing remedial action will be plenty of work for the staff member.

"To be perfectly honest, I am not convinced yet," said Mayor Liz Danielsen. "Maybe I need to see a job description that it is something that can keep a person busy for a whole year."

Danielsen noted that with the report saying that the staff member would need to be assisted by another staff member, is there really enough work to hire a fully new team member.

"The support from other staff members would mainly be during the busy times of the year In the off season, they would take on that administrative role," said CAO Angie Bird.

"Knowing that WSP had multiple people working on the project, there is enough for one person during the off-season months," said Bird. "I wouldn't recommend adding a position to the township unless I was convinced that there was a need."

Dailloux brought up concerns of more frequent checks of septic systems that pose more danger to the environment, like old and leaky outhouses. She mentioned that advanced systems that do not pose a threat should get a reprieve to increase time between inspections.

"That strikes me as adding complications to the program," said Danielsen.

"It worries me that we would only be looking at systems when they are 20 years or older," said Danielsen. "To me, there is a lot of pitfalls and areas where things could go wrong."

Through experiencing septic systems that had failed within their first year, Danielsen urged council to consider timing of re-inspections carefully.

After extensive discussion, AH council opted for option number two, pending review of an updated job description.

County chimney sweep testbed for new industry standards

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

Haliburton Highlands chimney sweep has a unique approach to their business, serving as a testbed for new industry standards for safe wood burning in Canada.

Myers Chimney has been field-testing a system that involves documenting the quality and quantity of soot and creosote deposits removed from a chimney. The company then provides advice to the homeowner on how to optimize their burning techniques to maximize heat output and minimize these deposits for specific appliances.

Ian Myers, who is the current vice president of Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT) and a member of the WETT Standard of Practice Committee for Chimney Sweeping in Canada, has been amassing data for about four years to help educate not only homeowners, but insurance companies and policy makers when it comes to safe wood-burning.

"So what we look at, in part, is what actually constitutes a dangerous amount of creosote for a particular appliance, so when should it be definitely cleaned," Myers explained. "Code requires that all chimneys be checked and swept as required. Therefore, our new system involves documenting the quantity and quality of the deposits removed from the chimney. Advice is then given regarding system specific operator burning techniques to help the user optimize heat output and minimize soot and creosote formations."

Myers' process and findings could one day become requirements for all chimney sweeps across the county, he said.

"Haliburton County is an excellent place for this type of research and development because here we have all wood-burning types represented, both casual, weekend burners and whole-house heating systems," he said. "It's something to boast about, like for all of Canada this is the perfect place to do it.

"In B.C., they burn nothing but softwood, they don't have hardwood. And they don't have the temperatures that we have, it's way more temperate, right? So that's not the perfect place," Myers said.

Chimney sweeping used to be a difficult and messy task that involved the full dismantling of stove pipes. Today, modern chimney sweeps use specialized, flexible rods and brushes that can navigate around bends in the pipes without taking them apart, Myers said. This, combined with high-quality HEPA filtered vacuums and tarps, has eliminated the mess and potential for costly cleanups.

While code requires that all chimneys be checked and swept as required, it's also important to have it down for safety.

"It's for the safety of your home and not as a scare tactic but that's why I always say 'Knowledge is power,'" Myers said. "We believe wood-burning is a participation sport and we strive to demystify the process. We want users of wood burning appliances to understand and enjoy what they have in their homes, not be frightened by them.

"Wood-burning is an important, necessary option for the residents of Haliburton County and it is our job as WETT certified chimney sweeps to promote safe and effective use," he said.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

September 25 – Regular Council Meeting
October 9 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

WATCH FOR WORKERS

Construction season is here. Keeping a work site safe includes everyone. Slow down and watch for workers when approaching road work sites.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- *Haycock: One Family's Canvas of Canada* will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until Saturday, November 15. This exhibition celebrates the remarkable story of how a chance encounter in 1927 between Maurice Haycock and A.Y. Jackson in Canada's Arctic sparked nearly a century of painting by Maurice, his daughters Kathy and Karole, and his granddaughter Erika. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is by donation.

- Join us for a special screening of *Angry Inuk* (2016) at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Thursday, September 25 at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Admission is free, and all ages are welcome. No pre-registration is required. The documentary is provided courtesy of the National Film Board.

- The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm until October 11. Daily drop-in programs are offered Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 11 am.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The following Township of Minden Hills offices will be closed on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

- Municipal Administration Office (7 Milne St.)
- Fire Hall Administration Office (12418 Hwy. 35)
- Minden Hills Cultural Centre (176 Bobcaygeon Rd.)
- SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside St.)

Waste disposal sites will be open and operate on normal hours.

Our offices and facility will resume regular hours on Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

CONFIDENTIAL PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

September 27, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Scotch Line Landfill. Bring your sensitive documents to be safely shredded on-site — no need to remove staples. We're also collecting donations for the Minden Community Food Centre: Non-perishable food items, toiletries, and monetary donations welcome. Protect your privacy and give back to the community.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917 Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills @Township_MindenHills

AH council consider Fletcher Lake questionnaire

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

On Aug. 25, the Fletcher Lake Landing Rehabilitation Questionnaire closed to the public.

"We had, what I consider, a fantastic response to this questionnaire," said Chris Card, Parks, Recreation, and Trails Coordinator for Algonquin Highlands at the Algonquin Highlands council meeting on Sept. 18.

With forty-three responses, 46 per cent of the 84 property owners voiced their opinion in the survey.

There were several improvements to the landing and boat access area that were discussed in the meeting.

The turn around area and access to the boat launch was discussed. A number of respondents said that it was difficult to access the ramp with their vehicle and then pull out. Especially with cars parked near the landing, it is difficult to leave.

During this process AH learned that a portion of the landing is on Crown land. Card says that they are currently in talks with the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding leasing the land. This lease would allow proper signage saying that camping is not permitted.

"If people are camping on the crown land and we do not have the lease rights for it, we can't do anything," said Card.

Card also said to consider a bylaw in the future that prohibits camping at public landings.

Staff recommended to council that there be enough space for two boats and to discuss with the design consultant the most cost effective way to allow for more boats and to facilitate ease of launching.

Card says that a docking system will likely be the most cost effective option to add additional mooring spaces. Especially if any issues with water depth arise.

Parking was also discussed. Staff recommended that signs indicate parking for the landing along Livingstone Lake Road. They also discussed routine tree trimming and to look at costs for additional parking in the future.

There are also the remains of a past structure in front of the retaining wall. Despite requests to install marker buoys, staff recommend not taking any action.

Staff recommend making the boat launch wider and more accessible. They will need to review whether or not they can deeper the launch as well.

Staff also recommend installing a new message board and encourage members of the local cottage association to post on it.

Some respondents mentioned putting up signs for species at-risk and loon protection warnings. Card says that by installing the message board, concerned residents can put up whatever signs they please.

Haycock work spans three generations of art

from page 1

later in her life when her sister Karole convinced her to give painting a shot. Karole had been taught some painting techniques by her father.

Karole's daughter, Erika Pittman has also taken up the easel and continues the tradition of painting in the family.

Haycock was struck with how much painting amplified her life.

"The following day, I had to go paint again," said Haycock. "It has been a life changing thing."

Her first dive into painting was 27 years ago and she has not stopped since. A dedicated en plein air artist, Haycock loves to immerse herself into the natural landscape of Canada and paint.

She says that the lighting, the weather, and the emotions that she feels when she is looking at nature are easiest to express to another person through painting.

In her pursuits as an artist, Haycock has travelled all across Canada, visiting the east and west coasts, North West Territories, and Yukon. Haycock says that one of her favourite places that she has visited was the southern United States including Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

Haycock says that the mountains and dry desert were a humbling experience and reminded her that we are small specks in the sheer scale of our planet. Although opposite in temperature, Haycock says she was struck but how much the deserts reminded her of the arctic.

In March of this year, Haycock was awarded a King Charles III Coronation Medal for her contributions to art in Canada and locally in her home of the Ottawa Valley.

"It really made an impression on how I see things today," said Haycock. "It's seeing the world a little bit through his eyes."

"Haycock: One Family's Canvas of Canada" includes works from four artists in the Haycock family, spanning three generations. The works that are in the exhibition showcase 100 collective years of travelling.

Haycock says that this is a unique exhibition and "is an artistic glimpse of Canada over three generations and 80 years, seen through the eyes of one family of landscape artists."

"I am delighted that Karole got me started," said Haycock. "It made me realize what an influence that our dad had on me."

Haycock is immensely proud to be able to exhibit paintings from so many members of her family, especially her niece.

"There really is a Haycock legacy," said Haycock.

"Haycock: One Family's Canvas of Canada" will be on display at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery in Minden until Nov. 15. As part of the Minden Cultural Centre, the exhibition is accessible from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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2166 BLAIRHAMPTON ROAD $529,000

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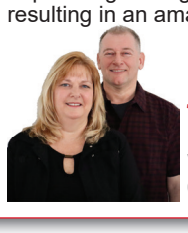

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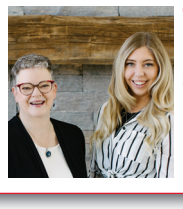

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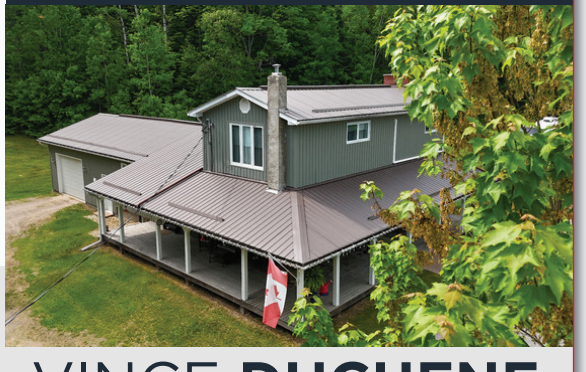

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Haliburton dancer returns to her roots

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

For Shay Hutchings, it's always been dance.

Of course, it's been other things as well.

Hutchings is a registered massage therapist. She's a business owner, the co-founder of Reform + Restore, a spin instructor, and was recently named a 2024 change maker by the Rural Ontario Institute.

But at the end of the day, it's always been dance. In the soles of her feet, in the soul of her dreams.

"It feels like coming home," said Hutchings, "like returning to a part of myself that has been quiet for a period of time while I focused my energy into building Reform + Restore."

Hutchings noted that the building that now houses the wellness hub was once the home of Haliburton Dance Academy (HDA), "a vibrant and cherished dance studio that made a massive impact on the Haliburton community, and since its closing, its absence has been deeply felt," said Hutchings.

Currently, Reform + Restore offers programs for adults in yoga, spin, circuit, barre, pilates, and more. But Hutchings noted that many of the instructors formed their roots in the active industry through HDA. "Bringing them - and their passion - back to the space felt like the most natural thing in the world," she said. "With multiple highly trained and experienced dance instructors missing both teaching and the kids they once shared their passion with, it only made sense to welcome children into the R+R community and share our love of movement with your families."

And with that, Hutchings is transported right back to her original 'why'.

"Parents had been reaching out, but I believe timing is everything," said Hutchings, "and the moment we decided to move forward with it, I felt a sense of excitement and reflected on the many memories dance left me with."

All the classes offered through Reform + Restore will be non-competitive in nature, meaning that kids will get a chance to dance, just for the sake of dance. "As someone who was highly involved in all forms of competitive sports, there's a lot of value and many important lessons that come from competitive teams and organizations," said Hutchings. "Having experience teaching both, I know the same lessons and values can also be derived from non-competitive sports."

Dance instructor Shay Hutchings will once again be offering programs to kids out of the Reform + Restore studio in Haliburton. /submitted

Hutchings noted that she and her team believe that there are many values to participating in sports without the restraints of competition. "When making the decision to offer kids dance classes at the Hub, the main goal was to offer kids in our community another option for extra-curricular activities," she said, "with particular focus on inclusivity, making it accessible to as many families in the Haliburton area as possible."

And this has been met with support from the community. "We were absolutely thrilled and, honestly, emotional by the support and encouragement of so many," said Hutchings. "So much so that two of the five classes were filled within the first week of opening them."

Reform + Restore is currently offering acro for ages five to seven and seven to ten on Tuesdays, ballet and jazz for ages five to seven on Tuesdays and seven to ten on Thursdays, hip hop for ages seven to ten on Thursdays, and pre-dance on Monday mornings from 10 to 10:30. Currently, the classes for ages five to seven are full, and the remaining classes still have spots available and will run until December. "We've worked closely with all of our instructors to design a schedule that not only fits your child's needs, but also aligns with our fitness class times," said Hutchings, "so you can enjoy your own workout while your little one dances. All in one building."

Reform + Restore is located at 135 Industrial Park Road in Haliburton. Hutchings encourages those interested to reach out to wellnesshubhali@gmail.com for more information or to register.

And now, it's a full circle for Hutchings, sharing that she's completely overjoyed to be welcoming kids into the studio; the same place that shaped her and her vision, many years ago. "Our instructors love dance; it was their entire life for many years, and their main purpose is to share that passion with children in our community," she said. "To spark creativity, joy, passion, and build confidence."

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A focus on community housing

It took a long time for us to get into the trouble we're in with housing, and it makes sense that it'll take a long time to get out of it. So we need to keep a finger on the pulse of progress.

That's what the Haliburton County Housing Summit does. An all-day event on Thursday, Oct. 16th at the Minden Hills Community Centre will be the fourth iteration of this event.

The rhythm of the event is a from-away opening speaker, a from-here panel, lunch catered by the culinary class at the high school, another from-here panel, and a from-away closing speaker designed to send you out the door with hope in your heart and intent in your head.

This year our opening speaker comes with an additional gift, a documentary about how communities across the country have figured out what they need re: housing that's affordable to their people, and made it happen. Dr. Brian Doucet's film, *Thinking Beyond the Market;* a film about genuinely affordable housing, will be screened the preceding evening (if the stars align: stay tuned for details).

This first panel is What Doesn't Stop You (makes you strong) and will be an update about six local housing projects, with a focus on the impediments they had to overcome. Housing is complicated and engages a cast of thousands (well, a lot) which means it takes time. You will come away with an enlarged understanding of what patience, perseverance and partnership is required to actually Make It Happen.

Lunch will not be the ordinary sandwiches and soup; it'll be a delicious and beautiful surprise.

The second panel is Reaching Out and Raising Up, and is an opportunity to peek inside the complexity of input that helps people who need help to make it into the mainstream economy to become and remain the workers and citizens our community needs. Six strands of the plait will come together to tell the story of how we offer integrated assistance to our vulnerable, in spite of being managed mainly from afar.

The closing speakers are Joe and Stephanie Mancini, philanthropic entrepreneurs from Kitchener (and Order of Canada recipients) who have for several decades engaged with their business peers to build the structures that support the service community to do their work more efficiently and effectively. This includes building space for social enterprises that move help from talk to action, as well as housing and a host of other initiatives. Their attitude is contagious; it should make us ask what a Haliburton County variation would look like and what's the next step.

The event is free and open to the public. There will be Q&A after each section, and opportunity to network. Doors open at 8:30 a.m., action starts at 9:00, finished by 3:30 p.m., maybe 4. See you there.

For more information about Community Safety and Well-Being in Haliburton County, visit www.haliburtoncounty.ca/cswb

Submitted

Investigation leads to seizure of drugs and two arrests

The Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has arrested and charged two individuals following an investigation involving drugs.

On Tuesday, Sept. 16, members of the Haliburton Highlands OPP Detachment and Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), with the assistance of the Tactics and Rescue Unit (TRU), Canine Unit, Emergence Response Team (ERT), and the Provincial Joint Forces Cannabis Enforcement Team (PJFCET), executed a search warrant at a location on Soyers Lake Road in the Township of Minden Hills. Items seized include 2,413 cannabis plants, twenty shotgun shells, and one air rifle.

As a result of the investigation a 54-year-old from Scarborough, and a 36-year-old from Scarborough, have both been charged with:

- Cultivate, propagate or harvest a cannabis plant that is from seed or plant material that is illicit cannabis.

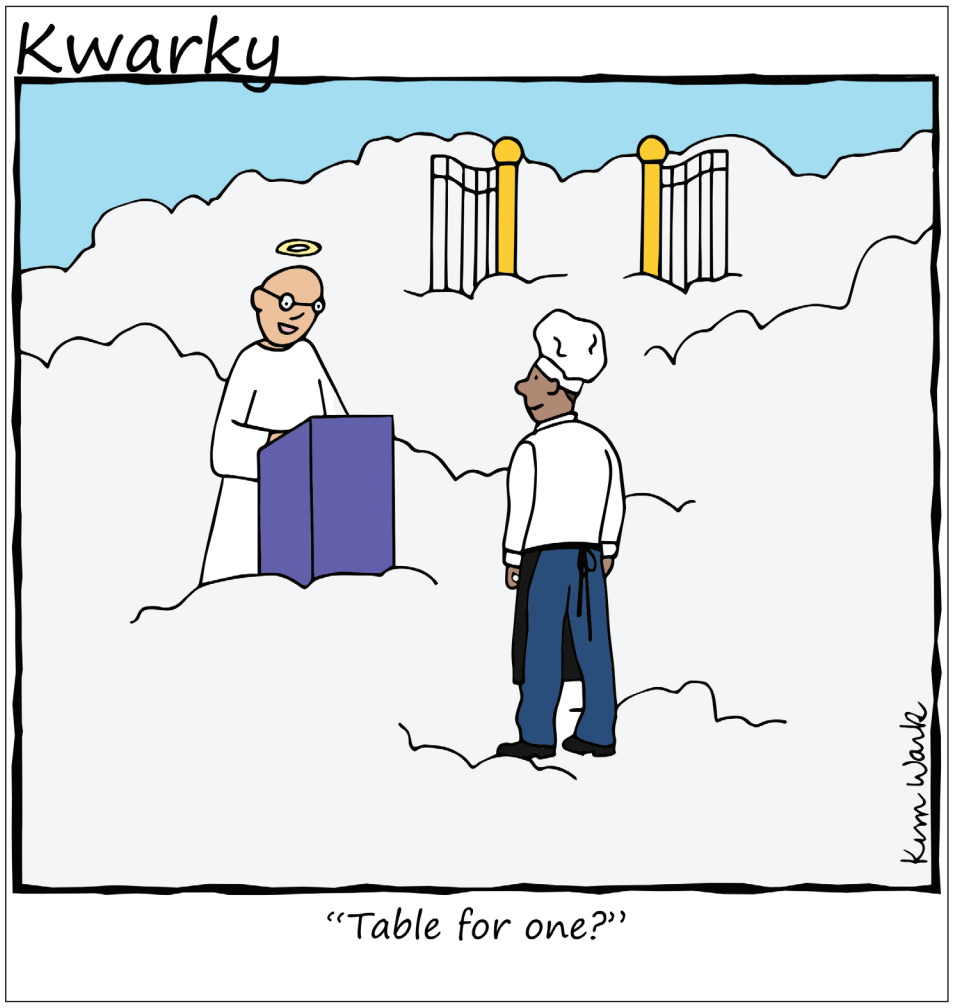
The accused are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden at a later date.

If you have information about drug or property-related offences, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS). You can also submit tips online at www.khcrimestoppers.com. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display, you will remain anonymous, you will not be required to testify in court, and your tip could lead to a cash reward of up to $2,000.

Submitted

Celebrating Minden Rotary

Minden Rotary held their annual volunteer appreciation barbecue this past week. "We had a great turn out this year! We had a great year! RotaryFest is growing and with the help of the amazing crew at Minden Auto Care we had a record number of raffle ticket sales," said Lynda Litwin. "We appreciate all our volunteers that come out and help with the Dinner Auction, Road Toll, OnLine Holiday Auction, Golf Tournament and all our events. We are part of an amazing community! " /photos submitted



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SUDOKU

			7					
		5		1			7	6
	6				5	2	3	
7		8	3			5		2
		2			1			
		9				7	8	
	8					3		
	2		4			6		
		1		9				

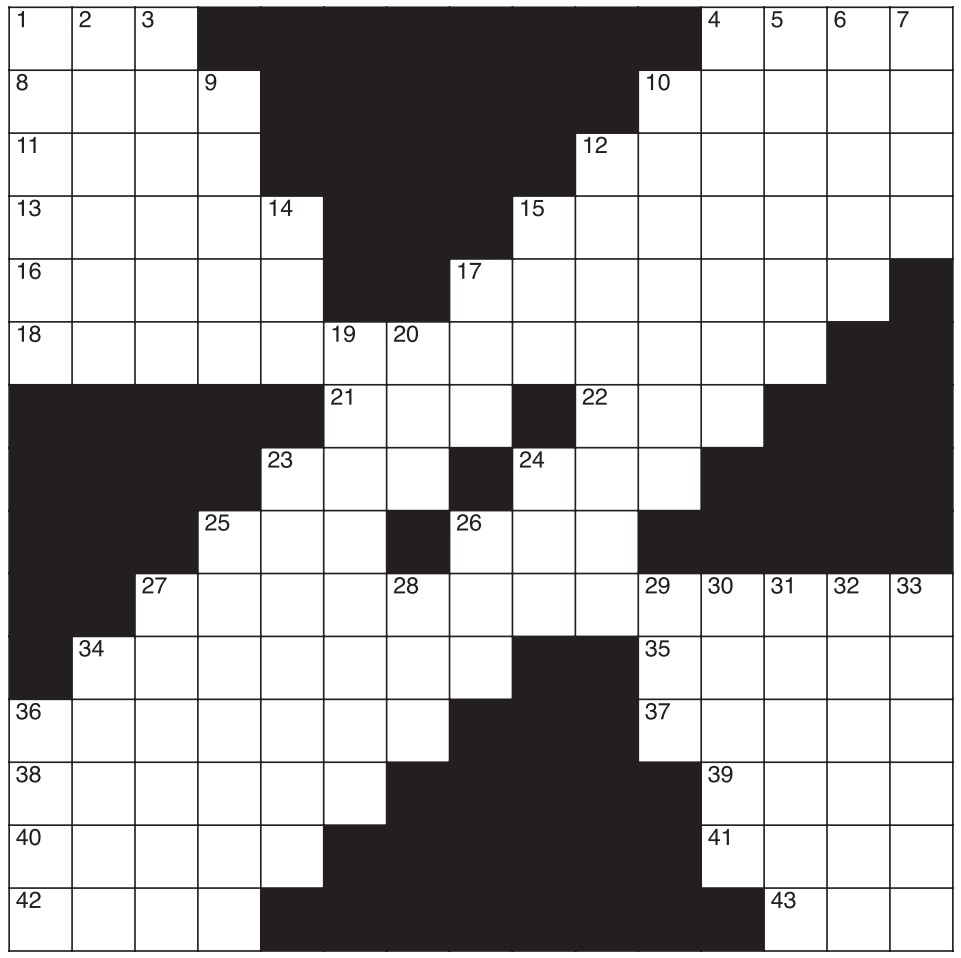
Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 19



CLUES ACROSS
1. Gas usage measurement
4. Muslim mystic
8. Towards the mouth or oral region
10. Monday (Spanish)
11. Frame for a coffin
12. Rub out
13. John __, English educator l467-l5l9
15. Small round particle
16. Chilean seaport
17. News service
18. Pay for dinner
21. Glamorous city
22. Subway rodent
23. "The Raven" author
24. Buddhist festival
25. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
26. Indigenous person of Thailand
27. "The Blonde Bombshell"
34. Series-ending episodes
35. Bluish greens
36. Aquatic mammal
37. Unit of measurement
38. Eye membranes
39. Indian god of dissolution
40. People of Scotland
41. Leak slowly through
42. Rock icon Turner
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN
1. Large hat covering
2. "From what is earlier" (Latin)
3. Celtic
4. Retirement region
5. A way to change posture
6. Touches
7. A small island
9. Rubbish
10. A citizen of Laos
12. A place to dance
14. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
15. Mild expression of surprise
17. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
19. Descriptions
20. Men's fashion accessory
23. Thieves of the sea
24. Prohibit
25. Card game
26. French and Belgian river
27. Underling
28. Downwind
29. Type of medication
30. German city
31. Animal disease
32. Martini ingredients
33. Get away from
34. Stuffed (French)
36. Type of precipitation

Answers on page 18

Chamber awards celebrate local accomplishments

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

As the leaves begin to change, we are reminded that this is once again the time of year to celebrate our local businesses and outstanding individuals.

Last week, the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce launched the nominations for the 17th annual Business and Community Achievement Awards.

"When I look at Haliburton County, our community is so strong," says Amanda Conn, the executive director of the local chamber of commerce. "Now is the time to take that strength, and reward those individuals."

Last year, the chamber received 187 nominations, and Conn is aiming to increase that number this year. "This is a great opportunity for businesses to recognize their employees," said Conn, noting it's also a chance to honour and celebrate not-for-profits, service organizations, and significant volunteers or community contributors.

2024 was the first year that the organization used the Express Nomination format. Through the Awardify Platform, members of the public and Chamber Members will be able to nominate exceptional businesses and individuals quickly. The nominee will then be able to supplement the nomination with additional information, and the platform will manage an anonymous judging process. To make a nomination or to learn more about the new process, visit haliburtonawards.com.

"Judges are locals from the community," said Conn. "But we sometimes use individuals from neighbouring communities to help out, but those need to have a strong tie to Haliburton County."

Nominations close at 5 p.m. on Oct. 5, and nominees will then have till Oct. 13 to review their nominations and add supplementary information. Winners will be announced at this year's Gala on Oct. 24, once again hosted by the Haliburton Legion. "This premier event will celebrate excellence in our community and conclude Small Business Week in Haliburton County," reads a press release sent out by the chamber.

Tickets for the Gala are on sale now at haliburtonawards.com.

The following categories are open for nominations:

- Business Woman of The Year
- Customer Service Excellence - Business
- Customer Service Excellence - Employee
- Employer of the Year
- Established Business of the Year
- Highlander of the Year
- Individual Leadership Business Achievement
- Industry & Skilled Trades of the Year
- New Business of the Year
- Not-for-Profit of the Year
- Professional Service Business of the Year
- Retail Business of the Year
- Tourism & Hospitality Business of the Year
- Young Professional of the Year

To learn more about each award and to nominate a business or individual, visit haliburtonawards.com or haliburtonchamber.com.

Hawk River Construction celebrates 50 years

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Larry Hewitt is the fifth generation of his family living in Haliburton. Growing up at his parents' Little Hawk Resort on Little Hawk Lake, Hewitt was first introduced to working with his hands and getting dirty through the family business.

"My dad passed away when I was twelve," he said, "and I was the oldest at home then, so I got leaned on to work a little bit more than play."

Whether it was raking leaves, or delivering water or split wood to the resort guest's cottages, Hewitt was there for his family.

"We have deep, deep, roots in Haliburton," said Hewitt.

After attempting business studies, Hewitt returned from Toronto and worked with a local contractor and did excavation work.

Hewitt started Hawk River Construction in 1975. The first home that he purchased was on the Hawk River, which is where he got the name for his company. The early days of Hawk River Construction were simple. Their only equipment consisted of a backhoe and a tandem truck.

In 1979, Hewitt expanded the business over the winter by cutting logs in the bush and delivering them to local sawmills.

By 1980, Hawk River Construction's team grew to 10 people. In 1984, Hewitt was able to build a shop in the Industrial Park in Haliburton and hire a mechanic to assist with his growing fleet of equipment.

"I grew my equipment base up bit by bit," said Hewitt. "I always knew I was coming back here. I didn't like Toronto at all."

In the past 50 years, Hewitt says that the population size around Haliburton County has increased. With the increased number of people, the service industry has grown exponentially. There is also increased pressure with accessibility to small scale construction equipment like track steers.

Hewitt noted that landscaping tastes have also changed over the years. Forty years ago, people wanted rocks cleared from their property. Nowadays, his team is delivering boulders to increase the aesthetics of the property. Some properties were likely the same residences that made him remove them in the past.

"I like to accomplish something, visually," said Hewitt. "Every day I plan what I am going to get done. I like to be creative and visualize."

Hewitt estimates that he has built around 30 miles of roads around the townships. The roads around Ross Lake, Percy Lake, and the west shore of Kennisis Lake are all products of his labour.

"I get most of my satisfaction from my customers," said Hewitt. "When they light up after they see the end result."

With 50 years in business, Hewitt is proud to say that many of his employees have left to pursue their careers further. With some former employees going on to work for local roads departments, he knows that the municipalities are in good hands.

Hewitt says that the favourite aspect of his business is visualizing lots and assisting customers through the process in understanding what is and isn't possible for their properties.

"Back in the early 80s, there were only two backhoes in the town," he said. "There were no excavators besides Kernohan in Minden."

He says that nowadays, there are around 20 excavators in the area. Construction also happens throughout the winter now.

Hawk River Construction remains strong in business today offering services in complete site preparation, drilling and blasting, landscape design, septic installation, snow plowing, landscape design, barge services, and a full line of aggregates.

John Patterson, a longtime customer of Hewitt, says that he helped build their house near Cranberry Lake. Blasting rock and excavating land for a swimming pool, Patterson notes that Hewitt also created the road he lives on itself.

Their friendship continued and later, Patterson became interested in Hewitt's gravel pit along Highway 118. Hewitt told Patterson to give growing vegetables a shot, creating Abbey Gardens.

"What was a gravel pit has become a bit of a showpiece actually for how a gravel pit can be turned into a place of beauty and rehabilitation," said Patterson. "Trees have been planted, grasses are growing and there's even a disc golf course that attracts people for a little recreation."

"He's a great pillar of this community and we have appreciated his friendship and his professionalism over all the years since we moved here in the early 2000s," said Patterson. "I trust that the company will continue to be available with their great services long into the future."

Hewitt is proud to say that he is one of the few construction companies that have been in business in the county for 50 years. Recently, Hewitt has reduced himself to half-hours. In his spare time, he is happiest when he can assist with projects that benefit his community and neighbours.

Hewitt says that he has stayed in Haliburton all this time with the lifestyle. As an avid outdoorsman, Hewitt has been president of the HHOA in the past and was involved with building the Fish Hatchery in Haliburton.

Hewitt is hopeful that Hawk River Construction will remain a household name in construction for years to come. "I would like it to still have a piece of the pie," he laughed.

Hewitt loves his community and has given back through donating towards the new CT scan and mammography services at the Haliburton Hospital, contributing time and materials to the playgrounds of J. Douglas Hodgson and Stuart Baker Elementary School, and creating the path between County Road 21 and the Drag River.

Through efforts at Haliburton Highlands High School, Hewitt also hopes to encourage the younger generation to take up the trades and gain an interest in the service industry.

"We need a workforce in the trades," said Hewitt.

Contact information for Hawk River can be found at hawkriverconstruction.com

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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9	2	3	4	5	8	6	1	7
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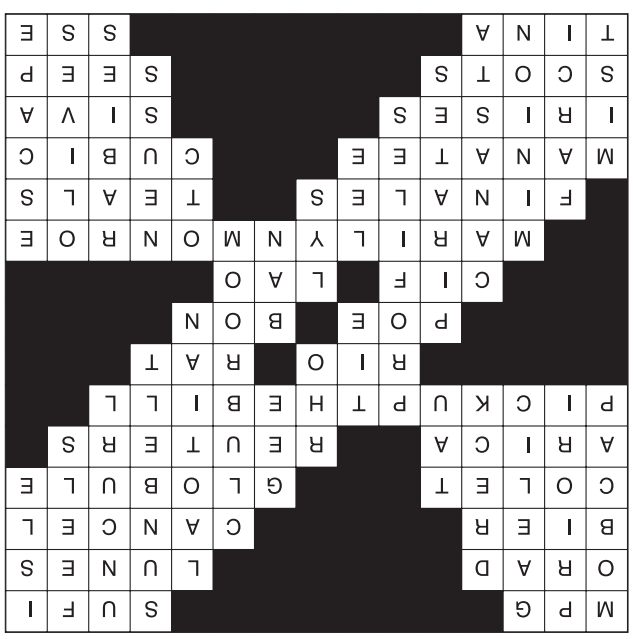

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ANNIVERSARY

Happy 1st Anniversary

September 28, 2025

To Nikole Watson from Wilberforce and
Andy Wong from Leask Saskatchewan.

Nikole is a critical care nurse at Foothills Hospital in Calgary and Andy is an Intensivist at Pasqua Hospital and Regina General Hospital.

All our love from your family
Kath & Paul Watson
Grama's Betty Austin & Marlene Watson

COMING EVENTS

FALL SALE by the Eagle Lake Ladies. **Saturday, October 4th** from 10am to 2pm at the Eagle Lake Church - 2605 Eagle Lake Rd. Quilts, Sewing, Crafts

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE

GEORGINA PARKES
1928-09-22 – 2025-04-24

Please join us on Saturday September 27, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion – Branch 636, Minden to celebrate the life of a fabulous woman, mom, gramma, gramma-great, and friend.

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Felts; John Joel

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of John Joel Felts on September 4, 2025 at Rockwood Terrace in Durham at the age of 84.

Beloved husband of Ennis Felts. Loving father of Karl (Monika) Felts and Rebecca (Rob Brown) Felts. Grandfather of Arianna Felts, Rachel (Patrick 'Oz') Reid and Zackery Brown. Treasured brother of the late Raymond Felts and the late June (Martin) Syron. He will be missed by his nephew and niece, Paul and Denise Syron.

John was born on May 8 th 1941 in Leicester England and that is where he spent his early childhood. John met Ennis Cheesman when they both worked at the Bank of England. They were married on July 11 th , 1963. Their first house was in Ashby-de-la-Zouch where they lived with their young children, Karl and Rebecca.

In 1975, John headed to Canada to work for the Bank of Montreal. His family joined him later that year and they lived in Markham, Ontario. From there they moved to Mississauga before settling in Tottenham in 1981. In 1989, John and Ennis realized their dream of running a motel when they bought the Lakeview Motel in Haliburton. They worked hard for many years and enjoyed their time in Northern Ontario.

In May 2001, they purchased "Spindles," a lovely Bed-and-Breakfast in Stratford. They enjoyed their time in this lovely city and were able to attend many of the world-class plays that Stratford offered. As Stratford is a seasonal vacation destination, they were able to spend many winters in Florida to escape the cold of our Canadian winters. And, in 2005 they retired to Mitchell, Ontario – about 20 minutes outside of Stratford. They happily spent many years relaxing and enjoying small town life.

Cremation has taken place and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer Society would be greatly appreciated. Online donations and condolences available at www.fawcettfuneralhome.ca

In Loving Memory of

Jaqueline"Jackie" Henselwood (nee Grant)

Passed away peacefully at Toronto General Hospital on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at the age of 78.

Beloved wife of John, predeceased by her daughter Leanne Henselwood. Loving grandma to Michayla Garcia of California, John Henselwood of Ottawa and Donald Travis of Orillia. Dear sister of Lynda Hill (James) of Halls Lake, Cindy Kenny of Dieppe, N.B. and sister-in-law of Ronald Henselwood (Laura)of Halls Lake and predeceased by sister-in-law Dianne May. Fondly remembered by her many nieces and nephews.

It was Jackie's wish for cremation and a Celebration of her Life will take place at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Kidney Foundation (cheques only) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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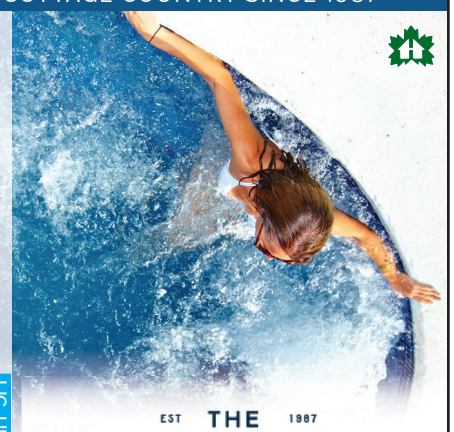

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FALL FUN: At Sunday afternoon's Farm Fall Fest at Waverley Brook Farms, Godfrey Tyler takes his daughter Joan into the garden to show her the beauty of the harvest. More photos page 15.

Sports out until union, board end impasse on contract

PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

The halls at Haliburton's high school, usually buzzing with students even after classes, are strangely quiet most afternoons now that teachers have cancelled all extra-curricular activities.

There's not much point for kids to hang around when there's nothing for them to do. It's just as quiet outside.

> *All of us feel morally terrible about this, but we have to do it to make the point.*
> **LAURA WILLIS**

There should be dozens of junior and senior football and filed hockey players practising or playing on the fields every afternoon at this time of year. But with teachers opting out of all voluntary activities during ongoing negotiations, seagulls and geese have had the fields to themselves after school for the past two weeks.

And at least until there is a solution to the teachers' contract dispute, it looks as though the halls and the sports fields and the classrooms used for other extra-curricular programs will remain silent after the dismissal bell rings at 3:30 p.m.

Though some teachers would like to continue coaching or leading other voluntary activities, their union and other

See **Teachers** *page 4*

Former MPP John Eakins dies

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The man who was elected as Victoria-Haliburton's MPP 23 years ago this week is being remembered as someone who brought "class and dignity to the position."

That was John Eakins' main achievement, says Guy Skipworth, who was the Lindsay politician's constituency assistant when Eakins was a member

See **Eakins** *page 6*

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Take me out to the ball game

The Minden Mixed Baseball League hosted its annual year-end tournament over the weekend where 12 teams and more than 200 players wrapped up their season with a two-day tournament. /ADAM FRISK staff